



Community Newsletter

This newsletter is brought to you by the Colliers Wood Residents' Association and is compiled and distributed to 4000 households by volunteers from Colliers Wood. It is also available online at www.collywood.org.uk

Summer 2012

The Future of Colliers Wood

Cllr Nick Draper writes: At the start of this year, Merton Council won £4.5 million towards regeneration from the Mayor of London, of which about £2.3 million is going towards Colliers Wood Town Centre.

The money comes with strings attached – it will only be given to us if it's spent on building a "piazza" round the Tower. As there's no point starting before the Tower has been redeveloped, that means that you won't see anything much happening for the next couple of years.

The upside of this is that we, as residents will have plenty of time to have our say as to how we think the "piazza" should look, and how it can best serve us. Be careful though – £2.3 million sounds more than it is – it's easily spent!

We want value here in Colliers Wood, and it's our job to get the "piazza" we want and deserve. Look out for the consultation when it comes!

Keith A Spears writes: This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve the public realm in Colliers Wood. I will be recommending to the Colliers Wood Residents Association that we set up a "Colliers Wood Future Forum" of all interested parties. I think that the forum should organise a conference, workshops and a consultation with local residents, community groups and local businesses to generate and develop ideas, share examples of good practice from other places around the world, and produce our own vision of how we would like Colliers Wood to look in future.

The CWRA will be meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd July at the Colliers Wood Community Centre. I will invite James McGinlay and Paul McGarry, the planning officers from the Future Merton Team and our local councillors. I hope that you can come and join us to have your say!



*The future site of Colliers Wood "Piazza"? Opposite the underground station.
© Steven Johnson (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stejohnston/>)*

(Donald) Hope for the Future?

The lease on the current library premises runs out in 2017, and the new "piazza" to be created next to the Tower could be the ideal site for a new state-of-the-art library in the heart of Colliers Wood

A year ago amid fears that our library might close, the 'Friends of Donald Hope Library' was formed – volunteers who fight for the library's future both through political channels and through supporting the professional staff who work there. Now, despite reduced opening hours, the number of users, visits and items borrowed are all up – thanks to the hard work of the professional library team, volunteers and Friends.

Merton Council promises minor upgrades to the building but is also looking at relocation. The Friends believe that before decisions are made we need a wider debate with members of the community contributing their vision of a meaningful library service for Colliers Wood.

To start you thinking, try comparing UK public libraries with those elsewhere in Europe. Take the village of Schlanders in the Italian Alps, a smaller place than Colliers Wood, where the library occupies the finest building in the village: a castle with modernised features that houses not only well stocked reading rooms and lending library but also a local history area and well equipped performance, exhibition and work spaces. A huge

Cont'd next page



Schlandersburg Library, Schlanders

number and range of items are available to borrow with others accessible on-line via e-subscriptions. An interlending scheme gives access to several larger and specialist libraries in the region.

The people of both Schlanders and Colliers Wood value their libraries, for social and cultural events as well as reading, but Schlanders makes its library a visible symbol of local pride whereas ours occupies dilapidated, sandbag-protected premises where a single room must host everything from quiet study to toddlers' activities.

Better facilities and a larger, more varied stock would encourage people to take pride in their library and visit it for longer.

With relocation, and modest adjustments to Merton's spending priorities, we could see a big improvement. Let's grasp this opportunity to develop a vision for our library and work with the council and library management to secure something we can be really proud of.

Gerhard Bissels, Membership Secretary,
Friends of Donald Hope Library

A man in his element

Local naturalist David Element has written and published a book about the plant and animal life of our very own Wandle Park. Produced with local residents in mind, it has photos of many of the more interesting subjects to be seen there. Besides the original hardback there is now a portable soft-back version of the book (featuring some new bird photos), a valuable guide to interpreting the park's wildlife.

Visit the <http://www.bobbooks.co.uk/bookshop> and search for 'The Wildlife of Wandle Park'.

David is bringing two new female hedgehogs from a wildlife hospital to add to those he released last year. This year, four have turned up in gardens backing on to Colliers Wood Rec, including two of the babies born last summer and their mother. Besides increasing the size of the local population the new hedgehogs will widen the gene pool, which means that because they're not related to the existing family they'll boost the strength of generations to come.

Hedgehog-friendly gardening means not using slug-pellets, leaving gaps under fences, clearing up plastic bags, beer cans and small flower pots, checking bonfires before lighting, as well as leaving escape routes from ponds!

Get fit for Summer – FREE!

Jog and Tone

Circuit style toning using jog or walk, suitable for anyone wanting to increase their fitness. Beginners welcome! These are informal sessions for adults who are at home during the day, who want to get fit but don't want to join a gym (or can't afford to).

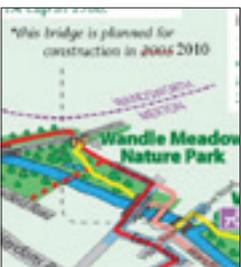
9.30–10.30am Fridays, starting 15 June 2012
Colliers Wood Recreation Ground,
South Gardens
Contact Caroline: 07811 222746,
jogandtone@hotmail.co.uk

Caroline is a voluntary Sportsmaker, part of the Olympic legacy for local communities to get involved in sport. She has a Level 2 OCR qualification in fitness and exercise and is completing a Level 3 qualification. She has worked as a volunteer for the Merton Council Walk4Life Project, assisting on walks and with chair-based exercises in care homes.

The Unfinished Bridge turns 5



Celebrating the bridge's fourth birthday last year



Excerpt from the current Merton Council leaflet on the Wandle Trail.

Downloadable from:
<http://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure/visiting/attractions/wandletrail.htm>

On 20th June, it will be five years since the installation of a bridge across the River Wandle that no-one can cross. This monument to bureaucratic madness can be found between Bewley Street and the Wandle Meadow Nature Park, where it allows the residents of Trinity Ward to look down in splendour on Colliers Wood Ward from a safe height of two metres. The leading characters in this farce are Taylor Wimpey (which was obliged to provide a bridge as part of their housing development and took no account of flood water in the original design), The Environment Agency (which is insisting on an expensive open structure for any approach ramp due to overinflated concerns about flooding, despite tight restrictions on the river just upstream where it passes under the old mill), and Merton Council (under both Labour and Conservative control, which approved the ridiculous solution we have today). Come and show your support for our efforts to sort out this mess on Wednesday 20th June at 7.30 p.m., and share some "unfinished cake". We will have a ladder so you can arrive at either side of the bridge...

More information at
<http://collierswoodresidentsassociation.org.uk/bridge/bridge.html>

The CW tidy-up campaign

The "Tidy-up campaign" has achieved some successes including:

- the removal of the piles of rubbish from near the car wash next to the Tower and the front of the library
- the removal of a skip full of rubbish and garden waste that had been fly-tipped behind the library
- a commitment from the local estate agent Christopher St James to remove the fly-tipping from their property on the corner of Carter and Denison Road
- a commitment from Tesco Express to follow their company policy and only give plastic bags to customers that need them.

These successes are the result of people power but we do need to remain vigilant.

In addition, the Enforcement Team from Merton Council recently fined several local residents £75 for dropping litter in the street, so don't drop it, bin it!

Yuan Clinic

John Tindall: Supporting the local community by providing affordable Acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine

Weekly Qi Gong classes – Wednesday 8.30pm
Low-cost acupuncture training courses
Tel: 020 8542 9470, www.yuantmc.co.uk
Email: yuantmc@btconnect.com

仁
心
仁
術

OUT AND ABOUT! In Colliers Wood this Summer

Do you have a story or event for our Autumn 2012 edition? Send it to info@collywood.org.uk by the 1st August.

Saturday/Sunday 2/3 June, 9/10 June

Wandle Valley Festival - check website for further details of events - www.wandlevalleyfestival.org.uk

Monday 4 June

Diamond Jubilee Beacon Event on the bandstand in Morden Park, 6–10 pm, with the Bikini Beach Band, the Colliers Wood Community Chorus and International Ukelele Orchestra.

Saturday June 16

Garfield School Fair.

Sunday 17 June

Myrna Close Nature Reserve "Tidy Up".

Thursday 20 June

Join us at 7.30 p.m. for the 5th birthday party for the "Unfinished Bridge" over the River Wandle between Bewley Street and the Wandle Meadow Nature Park.

Saturday 23 June

Singlegate School Fair, 11–2pm, with music and dancing, children's games, a barbeque and lots of stalls.
The Merton Abbey Horticultural Show from 2.30pm in the Colliers Wood Community Centre.

Friday 6 July to Monday 27 August

Abbey Fest with live music, theatre and comedy. Check website for further details: www.abbeyfest.co.uk

Saturday 7 July

If your son or daughter will be aged between 5 and 12 in September and would like to play local Little League Football, come along to the Football Trials and Fun Day, 10.30–2.30pm in the Colliers Wood Recreation Ground.

"Night at the Movies" fancy dress party from 8pm at the Prince Pub.

Saturday 14 July

St Joseph's Church Fun Day from 12 midday, with music and dancing, barbeque and cakes, bouncy castle and lots of stalls.

Sunday 15 July

Big Butterfly Count and family nature games, 10–12 in Wandle Park. For details contact Keith on 07982 721 496.

Monday 23 July

THE OLYMPIC TORCH IS COMING THROUGH COLLIERS WOOD! See local press for details and/or the Merton website.

Sunday 12 August

The Olympic Close Down Event at Merton Abbey Mills.

Sunday 9 September

The Paralympic Close Down Event at Merton Abbey Mills.



Costcutter
Proud to be local
The general store and post office at the heart of your community
Supporting Colliers Wood Residents' Association and Making Colliers Wood Happy



eddisson white
Specialising in sales, lettings & property management
Supporting Colliers Wood Residents Association & Making Colliers Wood Happy
Colliers Wood Office: 020 8540 9828
Wimbledon Office: 020 8540 5544
e: info@eddissonwhite.co.uk
www.eddissonwhite.co.uk

"Making Colliers Wood Happy!"

SUMMER 2012

COMMUNITY PICNIC

Bring your own picnic and come and celebrate the Wandle Valley Festival in Wandle Park from 12 midday to 5 p.m. on Sunday 10th June with music and singing, poetry and story telling, circus skills and games.

SUMMER DANCE

From 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 23rd June at the Colliers Wood Community Centre with the Latin American Dance Band "Havana Good Time!" £6 entrance — bring your own drinks.

CALLING ALL "FAIR WEATHER" CYCLISTS!

Come and join us for family friendly bike rides through parks, over common land and along towpaths on Sundays - 24th June, 22nd July, and 26th August. Contact Keith on 07982 721 496 for further details.

CABARET NIGHT

7.30 p.m. on Saturday 21st July @ St Joseph's Hall with musical comedy, satire, poetry and story telling with the "Collywood Cabaret Collective".

COLLIERS WOOD RAMBLING GROUP

Enjoy gentle exercise, fresh air and good company on monthly rambles to local places of interest. Contact Rita on 0208 540 1560 for details.

BOOK GROUP

Donald Hope Book Club meets @ Donald Hope Library each month. Please see poster in library for details.

POETRY CIRCLE

Read your own poetry or favourite poem from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at the Donald Hope Library.

CHESS CLUB

For all ages and abilities every Saturday from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
@ the Donald Hope Library in Colliers Wood.

"THE COLLIERS WOOD UKULELE ORCHESTRA"

For details contact Derek on uketoo@gmail.com

BADMINTON AND TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Every Sunday from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. @ the Community Centre.
Contact Chubby 07702 634 359 or Keith - 07982 721 496

"BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES"

Every Sunday at the Colliers Wood Community Centre.
Beginners @ 5.30, Improvers @ 7.30, Intermediates @ 9 p.m.
£6 per class @ the Community Centre.

BALLET CLASSES FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

Every Thursday 8.30 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. @ the Colliers Community Centre.

TAP DANCE CLASSES FOR ADULTS — MEN AND WOMEN

Beginners 7.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. and Intermediates 8.30 to 9.30 p.m.
Every Wednesday @ the Community Centre.

TEA DANCE

Every Tuesday at Colliers Wood Community Centre from 1.30 to 4 p.m.; £3 (includes tea/coffee and cake).

"Making Colliers Wood Happy!" is a community-building group currently funded by Merton Priory Homes.

www.makingcollierswoodhappy.org.uk

Keith A. Spears — founder and coordinator of "MCWH!"